SAINTPAULMINNESOTA

The most livable city in America



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Saint Paul Visitor Information

Saint Paul and the neighboring east metro area have been described as a "big small town." Friendly and inviting, yet full of opportunities, Saint Paul offers a distinctive urban experience full of historic sites, outdoor recreation opportunities, and world-class entertainment.

History:

- Saint Paul is proud of its accomplishments in preserving historic sites and structures. Some of its most popular historic architectural gems include:
 - Summit Avenue, the nation's longest span of intact Victorian homes, including those of the famous railroad tycoon James J. Hill, author F. Scott Fitzgerald, and the Governor's mansion
 - Cathedral of Saint Paul, built in 1915, whose dome rises 306 feet and overlooks the downtown area
 - State Capitol, designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert and completed in 1905 just north of the downtown area
- With its breathtaking views of downtown Saint Paul and the State Capitol, the Minnesota Historical Society's History Center is an architectural masterpiece made of Minnesota materials including Rockville granite and Winona limestone. It features museum exhibits, hands-on experiences, and multimedia presentations.

Sports and leisure:

- Sports Illustrated named Saint Paul "Hockeytown U.S.A." in 2007 and a top "Sportstown" in 2003, due in large part to local enthusiasm for hockey, the Minnesota Wild, and the Wild's home arena the Xcel Energy Center. The Xcel Energy Center is widely recognized as one of the best venues in the world to enjoy sporting events, concerts, and family shows.
- Saint Paul has 160 parks and the most river shoreline of any city located on the Mississippi River. Minneapolis-Saint Paul has 929 lakes, the Mississippi River, and more than 185 miles of running, walking and biking paths.

- Como Park, located on the city's northwest side, has a conservatory and zoo.
- The Science Museum of Minnesota is among the largest producers of IMAX films in the world. The museum is known worldwide for its interactive exhibits and dynamic traveling exhibitions.
- Other museums include the Minnesota Museum of American Art, the Minnesota Children's Museum, and the Minnesota Transportation Museum.

Performing arts:

- The Minneapolis-Saint Paul area ranks second only to New York in the number of theater seats per capita. Saint Paul's Ordway Center for the Performing Arts – home of the Minnesota Opera and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra – hosts a variety of performances, ranging from Broadway's best to cultural celebrations of song and dance.
- The Fitzgerald Theater, the oldest theater in Saint Paul, is home to "A Prairie Home Companion," Garrison Keillor's live radio variety show. The 2006 movie *A Prairie Home Companion*, starring Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Lindsay Lohan, Lily Tomlin, and Garrison Keillor, was filmed at the Fitzgerald.
- Penumbra Theatre Company, the nation's largest black professional theater company, premiered many of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson's works. It continues to produce thought-provoking works from the African American perspective.

Events:

- Two of the city's most well-known events are the annual Saint Paul Winter Carnival, featuring ice and snow sculptures, parades, and other outdoor events since 1886, and Rondo Days, a celebration that commemorates Rondo, the heart of the city's African American community prior to the construction of Interstate 94 in 1964.
- More than 40 arts organizations produce more than 1,000 arts events, exhibits and performances in Saint Paul and the east metro area annually.

Weather:

• The average high temperature in September in Saint Paul is 71 degrees.

Getting around:

- The Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport is located at the southwestern corner of Saint Paul.
- Once in downtown Saint Paul, the skyway system of enclosed, climatecontrolled pedestrian walkways above the city streets connects a variety of key visitor destinations.

Contact:

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